

SAFETY BULLETIN No.2 of 2014

MOORING OF WORKBOATS & SMALL CRAFT

Background

During the bad weather experienced in recent months, an incident occurred in the Lower River, which resulted in the sinking of three moored workboats.

The open workboats had been left overnight on their usual moorings, exposed to the gale force southerly winds, which had been widely forecast. Unfortunately, the workboats took on water as the weather deteriorated and subsequently all three sank. The workboats were later salvaged, recovered and inspected. The lack of damage to the hulls and fittings confirmed the view that they had been swamped by the wind and waves.



Recommendation

It is recommended that all owners and/or operators of workboats and small craft moored on the Thames regularly review the mooring of their craft, especially when adverse weather is forecast. This review should include the location, mooring arrangements and the protection of their craft from weather, wind and waves.

12 March 2014

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OHSAS 18001

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